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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/607,374	06/30/2000	Anthony Chavez	205242	8223

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EXAMINER

BASOM, BLAINE T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 09/15/2003

LD

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

24

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/607,374

Applicant(s)

CHAVEZ ET AL.

Examiner

Blaine Basom

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 41-59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 41-59 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

The Examiner acknowledges the Applicants' cancellation of claims 1-39 and the addition of new claims 40-59. Regarding these new claims, the Applicants submit that the references cited in the previous Office Action do not teach the limitations presented by claims 40-59. However, these arguments with respect to new claims 40-59 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 50-59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 50, there is no antecedent basis for "the help topics." Claims 51-59 depend on rejected claim 50 and include all of the limitations of claim 50, thereby rendering these dependent claims indefinite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 40, 45-48, 50, and 55-58 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,361,361, which is attributed to Hickman et al. (and hereafter referred to as “Hickman”). In general, Hickman discloses a method for providing concurrent access to the hierarchical help from multiple independent applications (see column 1, lines 24-53). Such hierarchical help is specifically organized into categories, topics, and sub-topics (see column 2, lines 11-14). As applications generally involve a plurality of hardware components of a computer system, such as the memory and input devices, it is interpreted that the help information for the application programs includes help topics relating to not only software components of the applications, but also hardware components required by the applications. For example, installation of an application involves the memory of the computer system, and various input commands to the application similarly involve an input component, like a mouse or keyboard. Moreover, Hickman discloses that such a method is implemented on a computer, via a computer-readable medium (see column 2, line 60 – column 3, line 40; and column 7, lines 14-19). It is therefore understood that Hickman presents a computer and computer-readable medium having computer-executable components for execution on a computer for presenting a plurality of help topics for software and hardware components installed on the computer.

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Specifically regarding claims 40 and 50, Hickman discloses that the computer system implementing the above-described method comprises multiple independent applications, each application having a set of help files (see column 4, lines 20-29). It is understood that the applications are stored in the memory of the computer, as is known in the art. Consequently, such a computer memory storing the applications, and thus the help files of the applications, is considered a help content store for storing help contents for a plurality of help topics, the help content store having a plurality of separate vendor folders, i.e. files, which correspond to different vendors of software and hardware components installed on the computer, each vendor folder containing help contents of respective help topics provided by a corresponding vendor. Continuing further, Hickman discloses that each application also comprises a help file directory, which is used to map the help topics associated with the help files into a hierarchical outline structure (see column 4, lines 30-51). These help file directories include data for identifying the position of each topic or sub-topic within the hierarchical outline structure, and also, data for identifying the location of the help content associated with each help topic, the help content being stored in the help files described above (see column 4, line 52 – column 5, line 27). This conglomeration of help file directories associated with the applications stored on the computer system is thus considered a help database comprising mapping data for mapping help topics into a taxonomy structure of help categories and help topics, the mapping data including data for each help topic for identifying a node position of each help topic in the taxonomy structure and a location of corresponding help content in a help content store. Continuing on, Hickman discloses that a help utility may automatically recognize the installation of new applications and include help information topics from the newly installed applications into the above-described

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hierarchical outline structure (see column 2, lines 19-25). Such a help utility is therefore considered a help content update module for updating help contents received in the content store and the mapping data in the help database based on update packets, i.e. applications or new versions of applications, which are received from vendors. Lastly, Hickman discloses that the above-described help utility is also used to display the hierarchical outline structure of help topics to a user (see column 6, lines 4-36), and also, is used to retrieve and display help content associated with each help topic in response to user-selection of the help topic displayed in the outline structure (see column 6, lines 37-66). This help utility is consequently considered a help application for providing a user interface for presenting help topics to a user, the help application being programmed to interactively display a taxonomy structure using mapping data in a help database and help contents stored in a content store, including displaying help categories and help topics in the taxonomy structure in response to user selections, retrieving help contents of a user-selected help topic, and displaying the help content of the user-selected help topic.

Concerning claims 45 and 55, Hickman discloses that that a help utility may automatically recognize the installation of new applications, and as described in the previous paragraph, include help information topics from the newly installed applications into the above-described hierarchical outline structure by updating the help directories. As described above, such a help utility is considered a help content update module, like that of the claimed invention. It is understood that a user may similarly remove applications, as is known in the art. Since the help directories specify the help topics for applications *installed* on the computer system, it is interpreted that removing an application would remove a directory for that application. Consequently, the help database, which as described above is the conglomeration of such

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directories, would be updated. Thus it is understood that the help content update module of Hickman is programmed to add, move, and remove help topics from the hierarchical outline structure by updating the mapping data in the help database.

With respect to claims 46 and 56, Hickman discloses that a user may perform a search for a particular help topic or set of help topics (see column 6, line 67 – column 7, line 13). In particular, the above-described help directories are searched to find topics that match user-specified search criteria (see column 8, lines 26-43). The help directories, which as described above are considered a help database, thus comprise data specifying a search keyword associated with each help topic, the search keyword being the name of the help topic.

As per claims 47-48 and 57-58, Hickman discloses that the above-described help file directories, which are considered a help database, comprise a topic descriptor field (see column 4, lines 61-65). This descriptor field contains an alphanumeric string that specifies the help file content for a particular topic or sub-topic within help files, and which is capable of being displayed to the user (see column 4, line 65 – column 5, line 2). In other words, it is interpreted that this descriptor field comprises the name of each topic or sub-topic. Consequently, this descriptor field is used to specify an index string, i.e. name, associated with each help topic. Hickman further discloses that a menu selection button may be selected in order to display the hierarchical outline of topic and sub-topic names (see column 5, line 49 – column 6, line 36). Thus the user interface provided by the help application of Hickman includes an interface element presenting an option to view index strings of help topics.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 44, 49, 54, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent of Hickman, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 6,236,989, which is attributed to Mandyam et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Mandyam"). As described above, Hickman presents a computer-readable medium and computer like that of claims 40 and 50, respectively. In particular, Hickman discloses a help file directory, which as described above, contains mapping data for mapping help topics into a hierarchical structure of help categories and help topics. It is interpreted that the structure of the directory implicitly denotes the parent node of each help topic in the taxonomy structure. For example, referring to the directories of figures 4A and 4B and the associated hierarchical structure of figure 5, the topics and sub-topics in the hierarchical structure are displayed in the same order as listed in the directories. Consequently in the directories of Hickman, the parent of a sub-topic is specified by the first topic preceding the sub-topic. In other words, the mapping data for each topic implicitly includes a parent ID identifying a parent node of the topic in the hierarchical outline structure. Continuing on, Hickman further discloses that the help file directory includes a file identifier field, which defines the location of the help file corresponding to each help topic (see column 5, lines 2-6). Hickman however does not explicitly specify that this file identifier field comprises a

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URL, as expressed in each of claims 44 and 54, or that the help contents in the help files are written in a mark-up language, as is specified in each of claims 49 and 59.

Like Hickman, Mandyam discloses a method for providing help information for a software application residing on a computer. More specifically, and regarding the claimed invention, Mandyam discloses that the help information may be migrated to HTML and stored on a web server, from which it may be accessed by specifying a URL associated with the content (see column 6, lines 24-34, and column 2, lines 44-50).

Consequently, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hickman such that the help files are accessed from a web server, as is done by Mandyam. In other words, it would have been obvious to modify Hickman such that the file identifier field comprises a URL which specifies the location of the help contents associated with each help topic, the help contents being written in HTML, as is taught by Mandyam. One would have been motivated to create such a combination because storing help files on a web server consumes less space on the user's computer, as is taught by Mandyam (see column 6, lines 24-29).

Claims 41-43 and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the U.S. Patent of Hickman, which is described above, and also over U.S. Patent No. 5,825,356, which is attributed to Habib et al. (and hereafter referred to as "Habib"). As shown above, Hickman teaches a computer-readable medium and computer, like that recited in claims 40 and 50, which are for providing help information. However, the Hickman does not teach that such

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help information includes a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by the help contents stored in the help content store, as is expressed in each of claims 41 and 51.

Like Hickman, Habib presents a method for providing help information to a user, wherein this help information is organized into various topics and is presented on the user's computer (see column 3, lines 44-51). Habib additionally discloses that the presentation of help information includes displaying a "do-it-all" button, which when selected, causes the computer to execute an active component in order to complete a task regarding a selected help topic (see column 1, lines 57-60, and column 5, lines 45-52). Thus, as is recited in claims 41 and 51, Habib presents a script library for storing a plurality of script library objects used by the help contents.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hickman and Habib before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the help system taught by Hickman such it includes buttons with similar functionality to the "do-it-all" buttons described above and by Habib. It would have been advantageous to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a combination because "do-it-all" buttons provide a faster means of fixing a problem than that of manually fixing the problem, as is expressed by Habib (see column 4, lines 15-19).

Regarding claims 42, 43, 52, and 53, since particular sets of scripts are associated with specific help contents, as is expressed above, it is interpreted that with the above-described combination of Hickman and Habib, there exists some sort of store which is checked to identify which scripts to execute for particular help content. In other words, it is understood that there exists an "authorization store," like that described in claims 42, 43, 52, and 53.

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Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

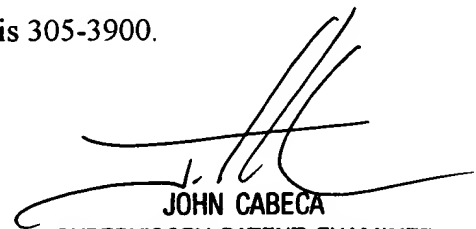
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Blaine Basom whose telephone number is (703) 305-7694. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-3900.

btb


JOHN CABECA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100